REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 83 and 84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for allegedly not being enabled by the specification. Applicants respectfully traverse.

From the rejection it seems that he is of the opinion that claims 83 and 84 are directed to antibodies carrying one or more CDRs in general. The Examiner alleges that the description does not include any example for an antibody carrying less than six CDRs. The antibody of the invention, however, does carry a CDR that is specific for FcγRIIb (see claim 83) and that the CDRs in the inventive antibody correspond to at least one or more of the CDR sequences of SEQ ID NO: 5, 7, 9 or -11 (see claim 84). Claims 83 and 84 do not claim an antibody carrying only one CDR in total.

Furthermore, this is also supported by the description on page 15, lines 25-28 in which paragraph it is disclosed that "the antibody comprises one or both of the variable light and variable heavy regions according to SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 7 and/or the variable light and variable heavy regions according to SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 11".

Thus, this rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 70-72, 75, 78-87, 92, 93, 106 and 112 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Koenig as evidenced by Fig. 5 of the instant specification. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The claims recite non-blocking anti FcγRIIb antibodies that do not interfere with immunocomplex binding to FcγRIIb. Non-blocking antibodies are disclosed on page 13, lines 7-21. Accordingly, the amino acid sequences of the CDRs have been also limited to those that non-blocking antibodies bind to.

Koenig et al. describe an antibody that is able to distinguish between FcγRIIb and FcγRIIa and binds to endogenously expressed FcγRIIb with higher affinity than to FcγRIIa. However, the antibody disclosed in Koenig et al. does block the IgG binding site of FcγRIIb (cf. column 10 for example). In contrast, the present application discloses anti- FcγRIIb antibodies that do not interfere with IgG binding to FcγRIIb.

The present specification describes, for the first time, non-blocking antibodies that are capable of distinguishing between FcγRIIb and FcγRIIa and specifically bind to a CDE of FcγRIIb without blocking its IgG binding site.

In contrast to blocking antibodies, these antibodies have the advantage that binding of the receptor to immune complexes is not impaired; thus, the activation of the receptors by immune complexes remains intact, and additional receptors can be recruited to enhance the activation. This is not taught by Koenig et al., who merely discloses blocking antibodies.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-HUBR-1295-US.

Respectfully submitted

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